

**What is claimed is:**

1. The valve packing removal device, comprising:  
a substantially cylindrical housing adapted to be secured to a valve stem of a sliding stem valve, the substantially cylindrical housing having an outer surface, an inner surface, and a hollow interior, the outer surface having a diameter less than a diameter of a packing box of the valve, the inner surface having a diameter corresponding to a diameter of the valve stem.
2. The valve packing removal device of claim 1, wherein the substantially cylindrical housing includes first and second halves forming a sleeve adapted to be secured around the valve stem.
3. The valve packing removal device of claim 2, further including a snap ring having a longitudinal gap therein, the sleeve being securable to the valve stem by introducing the sleeve through the gap and deflecting the snap ring around the sleeve.
4. The valve packing removal device of claim 1, wherein the substantially cylindrical housing is made of metal.
5. The valve packing removal device of claim 1, wherein the substantially cylindrical housing is made of plastic.
6. The valve packing removal device of claim 1, wherein the substantially cylindrical housing is made of a composite material.

7. A valve, comprising:
- a valve housing having an inlet, an outlet, and a chamber therebetween;
  - a valve stem slidably mounted in the housing;
  - a valve plug connected to the valve stem and movable within the chamber;
  - a packing box provided in the valve housing around the valve stem;
  - packing disposed in the packing box around the sliding stem; and
  - a sleeve mounted to the valve stem proximate the valve plug, the sleeve having a diameter less than a diameter of the packing box.
8. The valve of claim 7, wherein the sleeve includes first and second halves positioned around the valve stem.
9. The valve of claim 7, further including a snap lock frictionally fit around the sleeve.
10. The valve of claim 7, wherein the valve stem is connected to a valve actuator.
11. The valve of claim 7, wherein the sleeve is manufactured from metal.
12. The valve of claim 7, wherein the sleeve is manufactured from plastic.
13. The valve of claim 7, wherein the sleeve is manufactured from a composite material.
14. The valve of claim 7, wherein the packing is manufactured from tetrafluoroethylene.

15. A method of removing packing from a valve, comprising:  
securing a sleeve to a valve stem of the valve, a valve plug being secured to the valve stem;  
relieving pressure from packing surrounding the valve stem; and  
pulling the valve stem and sleeve from the valve, the sleeve pulling the valve packing out of the valve.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the sleeve is a two piece construction, and is secured to the valve stem using at least one fastener.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the fastener is a snap ring.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the packing is compressed around the valve stem by a spring and an end cap secured to the valve, the pressure being relieved by removing the end cap and allowing the spring to decompress.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the valve stem is pulled from the valve using an actuator connected to the valve.

20. The method of claim 15, further including the step of removing a bonnet assembly of the valve to expose the valve stem prior to the securing step.